

Barreto, Jr., and the entire team at the SBA. They responded to each of my requests and demonstrated knowledge, experience and genuine care by helping small businesses get clean, dry, rebuilt and open again for customers and employees. Their enthusiastic outreach truly gave hope to many owners and employees. And, as a U.S. Senator, one can often try to get Federal agencies to help people. From my perspective, the Small Business Administration is demonstrably one of the very best lead teams in the Federal Government. On behalf of Virginians, I thank them for their special care. Many small entrepreneurs are open for business due to our efforts. It is a satisfying job well done.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, regarding the voice vote on the nomination of Major General Robert T. Clark, U.S. Army, yesterday in the U.S. Senate, had such vote been a rollcall vote, I would have voted "nay."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DELEGATE HOWARD "PETE" RAWLINGS

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Delegate Pete Rawlings. He was a big man with a big heart—who leaves an indelible mark on the people of Maryland.

The Baltimore Sun said Delegate Rawlings had "the passion of a civil rights activist and the analytical mind of a mathematician combined with the savvy of a backroom pol." I think that captures him perfectly.

Delegate Rawlings used America's unique opportunity structure to build a life of accomplishment and of service. But more importantly, he expanded that opportunity structure for thousands of others. In over a quarter century in the House of Delegates, Pete Rawlings was known as a man of principle who put his principles into action.

Mathematician and politician, educator and leader, Pete Rawlings may be best remembered for his untiring advocacy to improve education for all. He was an unfailing advocate for education. He used his power and influence to provide an unprecedented State commitment to education, a \$1.3 billion commitment that the State recognized it would be constitutionally bound to fulfill. Maryland's schools are better today because of Delegate Rawlings.

The passing of Delegate Rawlings is a tragedy, but his life was a triumph. His wife, Dr. Nina Cole, and his children, Wendall Rawlings, Lisa Rawlings, and Councilwoman Stephanie C. Rawlings Black are in my thoughts and prayers.

I ask that an editorial from the Baltimore Sun be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The editorial follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, Nov. 16, 2003]

PETE

He'd thunder and preach, he'd deplore and beseech, he'd count pennies and votes and usually come out on the money.

With the death Friday of Del. Howard P. "Pete" Rawlings, Maryland lost an extraordinarily gifted leader and one of the most accomplished politicians of his era—known for both a tight fist and a caring heart.

Mr. Rawlings' intellectual grasp of policy detail and instinct for mastering the levers of power propelled him to a top post in the General Assembly. His greatest contributions arose, however, from his willingness to take on the unpopular yet critical tasks of fiscal management.

He never forgot his West Baltimore constituents, yet he had the rare courage to sometimes tell them no.

Such was the force of his conviction that he managed not only to survive such battles but to prosper. His remarkable legacy includes a new generation of political leaders he mentored along the way.

As a freshman delegate, part of a tiny minority of black lawmakers, Mr. Rawlings claimed his seat on the House Appropriations Committee in 1979 and immediately started breaking the rules. He publicly questioned every spending item, including those dear to the hearts of his committee mates, wanting to know what good the money would do for "his people."

Colleagues rolled their eyes. Who was this guy? They were used to machine-backed black legislators who were reliable votes, and to the "screamers" who would grandstand in protest of the system but never get anything done. In Mr. Rawlings, they found the passion of a civil rights activist and the analytical mind of a mathematician combined with the savvy of a backroom pol.

He was quickly tagged as a "comer," was named to a subcommittee chairmanship and by 1992 was awarded the gavel of Appropriations Committee chairman.

Running Appropriations in Annapolis isn't like in Congress, where the bounty flows seemingly without limit. In Maryland, the budget has to balance. Mr. Rawlings made it his business to try to ensure the taxpayers' money was being spent wisely.

He battled with Baltimore mayors and officials of Morgan State University. He authored reforms in education, housing and health care. He brought home the bacon as he saw fit.

The strongest testimony to his style may be his endorsement of Martin O'Malley in the 1999 mayoral race against black competitors, thus awarding the job of running a majority-black city to a white politician Mr. Rawlings thought better qualified.

Much of Mr. Rawlings' success stemmed from the sense that he was not interested in power for its own sake, but for what he could accomplish. That, and a deep bass voice that boomed with such moral authority it seemed to come from the heavens.

His passing robs Baltimore of its most effective and empathetic advocate. All of Maryland, though, is poorer for his loss. •

COMMENDING MAJOR FIRMAN RAY ON RECEIVING THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure and pride to rise today to honor a true Montana hero—MAJ Firman Ray. Major Ray grew up in Butte and Stevensville. He attended the University of Montana. To this

day, he remains a staunch Grizzly fan. His mother Tempie Ray is a retired high school librarian in Stevensville. Firman is the nephew of Carl and Martha Davis from Dillon. At the Montana Constitutional Convention, I was Carl's intern. Furthermore, Firman's wife Sheila Hall Ray was my son's babysitter when we lived in Missoula. Firman and his family are 100 percent Montana.

MAJ Firman Ray has a distinguished career with the Army and he is only getting started. He has excelled in each of his positions since he was commissioned in 1991. Firman also survived the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon where his office was hit by the terrorists.

Today, we recognize MAJ Firman Ray to receive the Silver Star for distinguished gallantry in action against the enemy in Somalia in 1993. The Silver Star is the third highest medal awarded for combat service and the fourth highest medal that a soldier may receive. The Silver Star is awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army, is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

For those reasons and so many more, I am honored to announce that today MAJ Firman Ray will finally receive the distinguished Silver Star award for his valorous performance of duty with the U.S. Army in Somalia that is long overdue.

Many of you may remember the movie, "Black Hawk Down." MAJ Firman Ray, then Lieutenant Ray, was part of the team that the movie, Black Hawk Down, portrayed. It was during the predawn hours of September 25, 1993, that a U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter was shot down in Mogadishu, Somalia. Lieutenant Ray was part of AT Platoon that was given the mission to conduct a search and rescue operation at the helicopter crash site. Clearly understanding the urgency of the situation, Lieutenant Ray took his two lead MK-19 gun vehicles and instructed them to quickly advance to the crash site. Upon entering the site, intense small arms fire and sporadic rocket propelled grenade fire erupted. The gunners under Lieutenant Ray's command were able to destroy three enemy positions in a building just north of the crash site. While attempting to again secure the site, another firefight ensued on the west side. Lieutenant Ray dismounted and on the run, dodged under considerable fire to position the gun vehicles to establish security. Lieutenant Ray's unit was again under fire two more times where Firman moved the gun vehicles into strategic positions that were vital to